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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC					
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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Civil Defense Measures

DATE OF INFORMATION

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DATE DISTR. 21 June 1955

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REFERENCES:

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Emergency Water Reservoir

1. The town of Vsetin (N 49-20, E 18-00), population about 15,000, had an emergency water reservoir [redacted] Built and utilized during World War II, it was located in one of the side street squares; it was of cement construction, approximately 20 x 10 m. in size, about two meters deep, with side walls of 45-degree angles. During World War II it was kept filled. When the regular water supply lines were inoperative, due to bombing or some other cause, water for fighting fires was drawn from there. After the war, this reservoir remained empty. However, in spring of 1954 it was refilled with water, a board fence, approximately two meters high was built around it, and "Keep Off" signs were posted. [redacted]

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2. [redacted] all such emergency reservoirs in the town were being refilled. Sometime in the summer of 1954 [redacted] a swimming pool was to be constructed at the MEZ plant in Vsetin for the use of the employees. Rumors had it that it was also to serve as another emergency water reservoir.

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Anti-aircraft Warning Siren

3. In Vsetin during the winter of 1953 [redacted] an anti-aircraft warning siren was installed atop the office building of the Water Supply Administration. [redacted] it was an air raid siren, since such sirens were installed everywhere during World War II. There were always two or three civilian ambulances parked in the yard of this building. The drivers of these ambulances were on 24-hour duty.

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Organization of Civilian Defense (CO - Civilni obrana) at MEZ, Vsetin

4. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] chemical and bacteriological warfare group. There was also a fire fighting group and a first aid group. Every other week meetings were conducted for members of CO groups, right at the plant. Members were notified to attend such meetings by individual notices.

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[REDACTED] the meetings were conducted half-heartedly and lecture courses were given by some of the MEZ employees. They used some sort of textbook and it was evident that they were not specialists in the topics on which they were lecturing.

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[REDACTED] the courses covered certain phases of civilian defense and included such topics as chemical and bacteriological warfare, fire fighting, and first aid.

5. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] the notices informing members of this organization about their meetings were always signed by a certain MEZ chemist

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6. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] one other civilian defense organization besides the one at MEZ Vsetin.

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